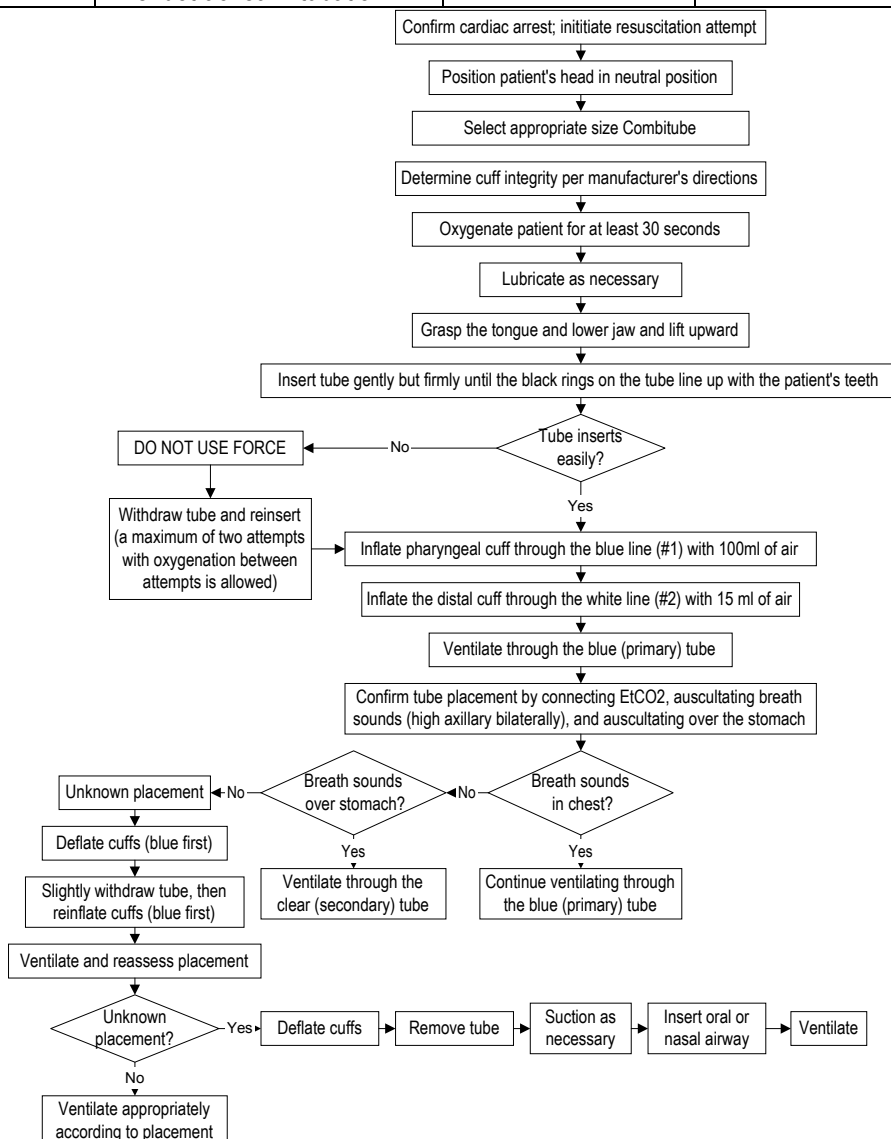


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Revision: 3

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
PRACTICAL SKILL
COMBITUBE AIRWAY**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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Purpose: To prevent regurgitation of stomach contents into the airway To facilitate ventilation with a bag-valve mask To provide a secure airway		Indications: Cardiac arrest, medical or traumatic	
Advantages: Cannot be misplaced Minimal training required Minimal spinal manipulation Facilitates suctioning	Disadvantages: Gag reflex must be absent Patient must be unconscious Placement must be identified (trachea or esophagus) May need removal before endotracheal intubation	Complications: Possible trauma to airway or esophagus	Contraindications: Patients <5 feet in height for Combitube Patients < 4 feet in height for Combi SA Known esophageal disease or trauma Intact gag reflex Caustic ingestion



NOTES:

When ventilating through the blue (primary) tube:

- The Combitube is placed in the esophagus when breath sounds are present bilaterally and epigastric sounds are absent.
 - The clear tube may be used for removal of gastric fluid or gas with the catheter provided in the airway kit.
- The Combitube is placed in the trachea when breath sounds are absent and epigastric sounds are present.
- The Combitube placement is unknown when both breath and epigastric sounds are absent.